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A snowy sleigh ride with and without the bumps

As Mariah's baby bump grows, her buddy Jasmine ensured their usual highspeed festive frolics were replaced with a smoother and more fitting excursion

I KNOW we're already two weeks into 2011, but I only just finished my Christmas adventure! And why not? I work hard all year, and as the saying goes, 'work hard, play hard'. My annual end of year frolic with the Cannons (Mariah and Nick) was, once again, great fun. As Mrs Cannon is pregnant with twins, it was decided that our usual Aspen jaunt would be unwise.

We've been to Aspen in the past and friends have ended up being hospitalised by altitude sickness. So the thought of the Cannon twins struggling to breathe in Mrs Cannon's tummy was enough to make us give the trip a miss. Utah on the other hand is just as snowy and magical, and is surrounded by mountains and canyons. So we all jetted off to Utha's Park City mountain resort, where we enjoyed a really relaxed, picturesque, once in a lifetime vacation. The winter vacation homes are all similar but with varying levels of extreme fabulosity. All are golden wood structures with numerous pillars and alcoves, high ceilings, a multitude of levels, and playrooms that contain pool tables, Wii consoles and karaoke machines.

In addition, they have a giant Christmas tree in the living room, a second tree in the playroom for dressing on Christmas Eve, a big family kitchen, a hot tub outside overlooking the twinkling lights of the city, and, of course, a fabulous view.

The four Cannon puppies – JJ, Chacha, Dolomite and Jackie Lambchops – were as cute and rambunctious as ever, running around causing pandemonium and playing in the snow. I took them all for a daily walk which was a crazy but fun task as they legged it up and down the hills dragging me into deep snow. At the start of the trip, Mariah reminded us of her usual vacation rule where we are requested not to spend 24- 7 on our electronic gadgets.

So imagine my delight and joy when one afternoon, as Mariah popped out for a quick shop and I sneakily logged onto my Mac, I spotted that she had just tweeted! Now the problem was, did I acknowledge that I myself had broken the rule in order to catch her? Her brother Shawn and I decided it would be worth the jokes to out her so we told her off via Twitter. She gave as good as she got and cussed us back. Good times! The one electronic device we were allowed to use was the Wii console.

We tried bowling and other sports but it was the Michael Jackson dance game that had us all sweating, screaming, dancing and singing at the top of our voices for hours! One night, we decided that Mrs C needed pampering what with the usual pregnancy aches and pains taking their toll. So all the girls pitched in to give her girl time with hand, foot and head massages with hot oil until she fell asleep. We also spent our nights after dinner playing games like Balderdash and Catchphrase.

I should be used to it by now, but whenever the answer to the clue I'm giving comes up as 'Mariah Carey' or 'Nick Cannon' it's so weird! On Christmas Eve, after we had our usual midnight mass led by our friend Pastor Kase, we were treated to Mrs C's special clam linguini with stuffed shells, baked clams, garlic bread, salad and authentic red tomato sauce that was delish! Our Christmas day Sleigh ride was very calm compared to most years as Mrs C is up the duff. Usually we enjoy bumpy ride through the forest.

This year, we were ultra careful to ensure the slope was smooth and bump free. But we still sang Christmas



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songs – particularly Mrs C's holiday track Oh Santa – at the top of our voices! In past years, we've attempted to reason with Mr C about not waking us up at 6am, dressed as Santa to open our gifts.

This year, with Mrs C having asked her hubby to let us sleep a little longer, 'Saint Nick' woke us at 8am with his traditional cowbell, complete with him pounding on doors dressed as Santa. My gifts included a gigantic bottle of hot pepper sauce, packed and presented in my name.

It was so heavy to pick up and hold that I had to leave it at the Cannons on their bar area in case anyone should ever request a bloody Mary! I got the usual necessity gifts too like hats, scarves and smellies, as well as some lovely trinkets and framed photos.

But my favourites were a flip camera and a pair of Mariah Carey black quilted chain boots that she designed for the Home Shopping Network. I'll be rolling around in those this year! On December 28, we took our last mountain walk with the crazy dog circus and drove back through the canyons to Salt Lake City airport where we jetted back to Los Angeles for New Year. Another wonderful trip with memories I'll treasure forever.

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